(b) No representation has recently been received from Electronic Component Industries Association requesting Government to immediately crack down on under-invoiced imports of floppy diskettes to plug revenue loss and to save indigenous units; and

(c) Although no representation has recently been received from Electronic Component Industries Association, the Special Intelligence units in the Customs Houses and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, and Central Intelligence Bureau at All India level keep a watch on any attempt of under-invoiced imports, whenever any such case is detected action in terms of the provisions of Customs Act, 1962, is taken.

Full convertibility of rupee on trade account

924. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering full convertibility of rupee on trade account;

(b) whether it is a fact that economists and industrialists have expressed differences on the timing of such convertibility; and

(c) if so, what action Government are contemplating in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) While the industrialists in general favour current account convertibility at the earliest economists in favour of an early unification of the exchange rate and a gradual movement towards convertibility depending on the balance of payments situation.

It is the intention of the Government to move towards full convertibility on the current account over a period of two to three years. A major step in this direction has been taken in the Union Budget presented to the Parliament on 27th February 1993 by unifying the exchange rate.

Tax dues against companies

925. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of companies both in private and public sectors, are in arrears in the payment of excise duty and income tax;

(b) what is the total amount due from such companies as on the 31st December, 1992; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to recover these dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The total amount of Central Excise and Income tax arrears outstanding against companies in the private and public sectors is given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

(As on 31-12-92) Central Excise	1840.51
(As on 30-9-92) Income tax	2164.18

(In respect of cases involving arrears exceeding Rs. 1 crore and above)

(c) Administrative, legal and other measures as are considered necessary, have been taken from time to time.

Setting up of supervisory boards for banks and financial institutions

926. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Narsimhan Committee has recommended the setting of Supervisory Boards for Banks and Financial Institutions;

(b) whether eminent economists and Reserve Bank Employees Organisations have expressed strong reservations about the constitution of such boards and favoured making RBI a strong and truly autonomous body; and

(c) what action Government are taking in the respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) The Committee on the Financial System has inter-alia, recommended creation of a separate supervisory authority under the aegis of Reserve Bank of India. Government have received a representation from the All India Reserve Bank Employees Association and the All India Reserve Bank Officers Association in this regard. The issues contained in the representations have been taken note of by Reserve Bank of India which is formulating the structure and functions of the proposed Board.

Expenditure on untargetted subsidies

927. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring down the expenditure on untargetted subsidies like higher education and irrigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the expenditure of the Central Government on untargetted subsidies is more than the targetted subsidies like food and agriculture; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The 8th Five Year Plan document referes to the need for increasing the user charges on publically provided utilities, such as irrigation, electricity, water and higher education where the volume of unrecovered costs which is a subsidy to the users is very high. Action in this matter has to be taken by both the Central and State Governments.

(c) and (d) The quantum of subsidies explicitly provided in the budget is contained in the Budget documents. No qualification has been attempted with regard to hidden subsidies. However, as these areas are mainly in the State sector the expenditure on these subsidies in the Central Budget will not be as large as the subsidies on food and fertilizers etc. It is Government's endeavour to ensure that the expenditure on subsidies is kept under strict control.

गुजरात में अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों के व्यक्तियों को ऋण

928. **श्री राम सिंह राठवा :** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गुजरात में अनुसूचित जातियों/अनुसूचित जनजातियों के व्यक्तियों को ऋण उपलब्ध करवाने के मामले में वाणिज्यिक बैंकों ने भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के अनुदेशों का उचित रूप से पालन नहीं किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने चूककर्ताओं के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की है, और